

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/943,470

Applicant(s)

SOGABE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Dac V. Ha

2634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03/29/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Dac V. Ha
Primary Examiner
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Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2-22 are allowed.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Applicants have amended the claims in compliance with the office action dated 12/30/04. The present invention relates to synchronization in reproduction apparatus and reproduction method. Upon further consideration, the amended claims 2-22 are allowed. Prior art of record (closest references Kim et al. – US 6,343,182 and Karino – US 5,677,935), taken alone or in combination, fails to fairly teach the such method and apparatus, as claimed, including “the input signal determination section determines whether or not a synchronization signal exists within the predetermined search area and, when a synchronization signal exists within the predetermined search area, calculates a position of a next synchronization signal based on the length of the frame so as to determine whether a next synchronization signal exists at the calculated position of the next synchronization signal” in independent claims 2, 20-22; “the input signal determination section determines whether or not a bit rate of the header portion has a value which indicates that the bit rate is indefinite and, when the bit rate of the header portion has a value which indicates that the bit rate is indefinite, modifies the predetermined search area so as to determine whether a synchronization signal exists within the modified predetermined search area” in independent claim 5; “wherein, when the first synchronization signal among the series of N synchronization signals exists within the predetermined search area, the input signal determination section determines

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that the input signal is an encoded digital sound signal” in independent claim 6; “wherein, when the first synchronization signal among the series of N synchronization signal exists within the predetermined search area, the input signal determination section determines that the input signal is an encoded digital sound signal” in independent claim 8; “wherein, when the first synchronization signal among the series of N synchronization signal does not exist within the predetermined search area, the input signal determination section determines that the input signal is a pulse code modulation (PCM) digital sound signal” in dependent claim 9; “wherein the input signal determination section includes:

a data counter for counting a data amount of the input signal to output an address of the input signal, a synchronization signal detection section for detecting a synchronization signal in the input signal to output a detection signal which indicates a result of the detection; a synchronization signal counter storage section in which the detection signal is incremented based on the detection signal output from the synchronization signal detection section; a first synchronization signal address storage section for storing the address output from the data counter in response to a detection signal resulting from a first synchronization signal; and a type determination section for determining the type of the input signal based on whether or not the address stored in the first synchronization signal address storage section exist within the predetermined search area and based on whether or not the value of the synchronization signal counter storage section is equal to or greater than N” in independent claim 10; “the input signal includes a variable-length frame including a header portion and a data portion;

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and the predetermined search area is greater than the length of the frame" in independent claim 15" (and claims 3, 4, 7, 11-14, 16-19 depend therefrom). Thus, claims 2-22 are found to be novel and unobvious over prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dac V. Ha whose telephone number is 571-272-3040. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 571-272-3056. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dac V. Ha', with a horizontal line underneath the signature.

Dac V. Ha
Primary Examiner
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